

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3, 7-11, 13-20, and 34-37 were pending at the time of the Office Action.

Claims 1 - 3, 7, 14, 15, and 34 - 37 are amended.

Claim 9 is cancelled.

Claim 38 is added.

Claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-11, 13-20, and 34-38 remain pending.

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a request from a sending device, the request comprising a hierarchical identifier;

generating a configuration file that includes a hierarchical tree-like arrangement of uniform resource locators (URLs) having a plurality of directories and one or more subdirectories associated with each of the plurality of directories, the configuration file including a user-mode processes associated with each of the URLs;

~~comparing the hierarchical identifier with at least a portion of a configuration file identifying the directory and the associated subdirectory in the hierarchical tree-like arrangement corresponding to the hierarchical identifier~~ to identify an appropriate user-mode process of a server device for handling the request; and

providing the request to the identified appropriate user-mode process of the server device that ~~directly~~ handles the request by providing a response for transmission to the sending device.

2. (Currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

generating ~~the~~ a configuration ~~file~~ store via a user-mode administrative process that includes data configured to indicate a rule defined by an administrator; and

~~modifying~~ updating the configuration file ~~automatically in accordance with rules generated by an administrator~~ based on the data included in the configuration store.

3. (Currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein generating the configuration file comprises:

defining one or more logical associations between at least one candidate hierarchical identifier and at least one candidate user-mode process; and

maintaining the one or more logical associations in ~~a~~ the configuration store.

4 – 6 Cancelled

7. (Currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the request comprises a uniform resource locator (URL), the URL ~~not including information specifying being hieratical formatted~~; and wherein the method further comprises analyzing the hieratical formatted URL to locate one of the plurality of directories and subdirectories in the configuration file to identify the process in the server that will handle the request.

8. (Previously amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the appropriate user-mode process includes a user-mode web server process.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the request using a kernel-mode communication protocol process;  
and  
providing the request to a kernel-mode process.

11. (Previously amended) The method as recited in Claim 10, wherein the kernel-mode communication protocol process comprises a kernel-mode TCP/IP process.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

causing a request generated by a client device to be received in a server device using a kernel-mode process, the request comprising a hierarchical identifier associated with a client device;

causing the kernel-mode process to compare the hierarchical identifier with at least a portion of a configuration file to identify a most applicable user-mode process for handling the client device generated request within the server device; and

causing the kernel-mode process to provide the client device generated request to the identified most applicable user-mode process that will provide a response to the request for the client device.

14. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, having further computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

causing a user-mode administrative process to generate the configuration file by copying data in a configuration store to the configuration file.

15. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 14, wherein causing the user-mode administrative process to generate the configuration file, ~~further includes; wherein~~

~~providing the~~ a configuration store is suitable for access by the user-mode administrative process, wherein the configuration store defines one or more logical associations between at least one candidate hierarchical identifier and at least one candidate user-mode process.

16. (Previously amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 15, wherein the configuration store further includes one or more logical rules suitable for use by the kernel-mode process in identifying the most applicable user-mode process for handling the client device generated request within the server device.

17. (Previously amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein causing the kernel-mode process to provide the client device generated request to the identified most applicable user-mode process further includes:

providing a non-shared interface between the kernel-mode process and the identified most applicable user-mode process, such that the client device generated request can be provided to the identified most applicable user-mode process via the non-shared interface.

18. (Previously amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein causing the kernel-mode process to provide the client device generated request to the identified most applicable user-mode process further includes:

selectively queuing the client device generated request prior to providing the request to the identified most applicable user-mode process.

19. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the hierarchical identifier includes a uniform resource locator (URL).

20. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the most applicable user-mode process includes a user-mode web server process.

Claims 21 - 33 (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the configuration file comprises hierarchical identifiers and corresponding user-mode

process indicators, and wherein the user-mode process indicators indicate user-mode processes that ~~for handling~~ handle the request.

35. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the requests comprises a uniform resource locator (URL)~~),~~ wherein the configuration file contains elements stored as a tree-like arrangement and wherein comparing the hierarchical identifier comprises walking through a hierarchical portion of the URL to find best match or to reject the request if there is not a match.

36. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a request from a client device using a kernel-mode process, the request comprising a hierarchical identifier generated by a client device;

generating in the kernel-mode process a configuration file that includes a hierarchical tree-like arrangement of uniform resource locators (URLs) having a plurality of directories and one or more subdirectories associated with each of the plurality of directories, the configuration file identifying a user-mode processes associated with each URL;

identifying, using the kernel-mode process, the directory and the associated subdirectory corresponding to the hierarchical identifier ~~comparing the hierarchical identifier with at least a portion of a configuration file to identify an~~ appropriate user-mode process of a server device for handling the request; and

providing the request to the identified appropriate user-mode process of the server device that ~~directly handles the request by; and~~

~~providing, using the identified appropriate user-mode process, a response to the request for transmission to the sending device.~~

37. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 36 wherein the request comprises a uniform resource locator (URL) that includes the hierarchical identifier, wherein the configuration file contains elements stored as a tree-like arrangement and wherein identifying the directory and the associated subdirectory corresponding to ~~comparing~~ the hierarchical identifier comprises walking through ~~a hierarchical portion of the URL~~ directories and subdirectories in the tree-like arrangement of URLs in the configuration file to find best match to the hierarchical identifier or to reject the request if there is not a match.

38. (New) The method as recited in claim 37 wherein finding the best match includes locating an identifier in the directory or subdirectory that has the most number of characters that match characters in the hierarchical identifier.